

State of Alaska FY2008 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Fish and Game AYK Region Fisheries Management Component Budget Summary

Component: AYK Region Fisheries Management

Contribution to Department's Mission

The Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) Region contributes to the department's mission by: 1) ensuring the conservation of natural stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants based on scientifically sound assessments; 2) sustaining fisheries based on the control and regulation of harvests through responsive management systems; 3) increasing fishery harvests and harvest opportunities of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants through the investigation of maximum sustained yield for individual and aggregate populations; 4) expanding fishery potential through identification of underutilized species/stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants; 5) maintaining and enhancing opportunities for public participation in the development of fishery management plans and harvest regulations; 6) developing and maintaining comprehensive databases on commercial, subsistence and personal use harvests, and associated processing of fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants; and 7) promoting public education on the conservation, production, and economic and social benefits of yields from fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants.

Core Services

Fisheries managed by AYK Region Commercial Fisheries Division staff are composed of complex and vast arrays of fish species, geographical locations, fishing gear, user groups and uses of the resource. Within AYK Region, aquatic species harvested in subsistence, commercial, and personal use fisheries include: five species of salmon, herring, king crab and a number of miscellaneous shellfish, groundfish and freshwater fish species. Approximately nine different types of gear are normally used in the region's fisheries. Some fish are harvested for multiple uses and have separate fisheries. For example, herring are harvested for sac-roe, roe-on-kelp, human food and bait. This mix results in a large number of distinct fisheries managed as separate entities. The remote and huge geographic area of the AYK region, which encompasses over half of the state, promotes numerous and complex fisheries, and extremely complicates management systems. Gauntlet-type fisheries that run the entire length of the Kuskokwim and Yukon River drainages are most challenging to manage. The Kuskokwim is 931 miles long; the Yukon River is 2,300 miles long. Additionally, the Yukon River is a U.S./Canada trans-boundary river. Residents draw on the fisheries for subsistence, commercial and personal use throughout the Alaskan portion of the drainage; aboriginal, commercial and domestic fisheries take place within the Canadian portion of the drainage. ADF&G is recognized as the management agency for the U.S. portion in the Yukon River Salmon Treaty Agreement. The Agreement outlines the details of the salmon-sharing arrangement between the U.S. and Canada and specifies the responsibilities of the U.S. in delivering a set number of salmon to the U.S./Canada border on the Yukon River. The international Yukon River Panel, which consists of representatives from Canada and the U.S., makes recommendations to ADF&G and Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans regarding the annual escapement targets for Canadian-origin salmon. Some of the functions carried out by the region to provide its management services are:

- Development of preseason outlooks and associated subsistence, commercial and personal use opportunity for salmon and herring runs and the Norton Sound king crab population.
- Development of management plans. The public and the Board of Fisheries are part of this process.
- Development of strategic research plans. Research planning is a collaborative approach involving public stakeholders, federal agencies, and state representatives.
- Collection of biological data and analysis of population dynamics for fisheries resources, such as life history, abundance, and distribution.
- Collection of subsistence and commercial harvest information, such as by household, permit, gear type, species, stock and location, number of units of gear fished, time fished, and fleet dynamics.
- Determination of reproductive needs, which include escapement goals, and growth to maximize production; and once established determination of allowable harvest.
- Manipulation of the fisheries in season by time and area to achieve escapement and associated harvest goals.

- Dissemination of information to the public includes fisheries information, regulations, harvest policies, management plans, and highly technical reports from results of applied research programs. Research and management staff attend many meetings throughout the year to present plans, season reviews and future outlooks, and to answer countless questions from the public.
- Issue subsistence and personal use permits and assist with Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit transactions. Operation of the region's four year-round offices, about 30 data collection field camps and four field offices.

FY2008 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2008 Component Budget: \$5,074,900

Personnel:

Full time	34
Part time	59
Total	93

Key Component Challenges

Resolution of federal subsistence fishery management implications and potential impacts to state management across the region will require continued extensive involvement of regional and area staff and fiscal resources throughout FY2007 and into the future. Additionally, state/federal dual management and the associated necessary coordination with federal subsistence staff place additional burdens on staff.

From 1998 - 2000, the productivity of nearly all AYK salmon stocks markedly decreased, resulting in dramatic reduction in total number of fish available for harvest during those years. Accordingly, extensive fishery restrictions were implemented for resource conservation purposes. Restrictions had profound impacts on public stakeholders, the regional economy, and on ADF&G staff. Some subsistence salmon fisheries were restricted and in some cases closed to provide for escapement. The impact of this disaster still affects the public's perception of current run status. The Alaska Board of Fisheries identified several salmon stocks of concern under the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy in 2000. Recent improvement in runs in most portions of the Region have allowed normal subsistence fishing activities and increased commercial fishing opportunity.

In conjunction with the decreased productivity of AYK salmon, record world salmon production, and changing consumer demand for wild Alaskan fisheries products, commercial market demand for AYK salmon and herring experienced an unprecedented decline. Market demand for some AYK salmon and herring stocks is presently nonexistent. Since 2001, some AYK salmon stocks are recovering from the production failure of recent years, resulting in some large surpluses available for harvest. However, a vast majority of available chum and pink salmon surpluses were not harvested in AYK because of extremely poor market conditions. Poor market conditions result in continued adjustments of management strategy and increased coordination with the fishing industry to meet competitive market windows and higher product quality requirements. These activities are projected to continue during FY2008 and into the future.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2008

There are no changes in the results to be delivered in the AYK Region in FY08.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2006

- AYK Region continues to develop and refine fisheries management plans and harvest management strategies to provide for the sustained yield of fisheries resources. Area-specific strategic research planning was initiated in FY2001 and continues to be developed for all areas of AYK. Additionally, in conjunction with federal agencies and regional organizations, an umbrella strategic research plan has been developed for the entire AYK Region through the AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative (AYK-SSI). Completion of all research plans is anticipated during

FY2007. Further, scientifically-based and defensible salmon escapement goals have been, and continue to be, established and refined for many salmon stocks within the AYK Region.

- Management plans in the AYK Region, which supports the largest subsistence salmon fisheries in the world, include provisions for ensuring a priority for customary and traditional subsistence fisheries opportunity.
- AYK Region staff provides accurate assessment and documentation of harvests, including species, numbers, location, time, gear and units of effort. These data are compiled annually and appended to historic commercial fisheries databases. Subsistence fisheries harvests are monitored through postseason household surveys and inseason permitting processes. Since 2003, there has been an increase in locations where subsistence fishing permits are required.
- AYK Region staff continues to be proactive with the public to develop and initiate cooperative fisheries resource assessment programs. The Norton Sound Research and Restoration (NSR&R) Salmon Initiative and the AYK SSI, two federally funded collaborative salmon research programs, provided much needed salmon research money to the AYK Region. Unfortunately, the NSR&R funding terminates in June 2007. The loss of this money jeopardizes the continuation of the needed research program in the Norton Sound/Port Clarence Area with the loss of the senior Area Research Biologist, who was funded under this initiative. AYK Region staff are members of steering committees and scientific technical committees associated with these two salmon research initiatives. Other committee members include representatives from ADF&G-Subsistence Division, regional organizations and federal agencies. Additional federally funded support for salmon research in the AYK Region comes from the Federal Office of Subsistence Management (FOSM) and U.S./Canada Treaty Implementation funds. AYK Region staff represents the division on the FOSM Technical Review Committee.
- AYK Region staff continues to be proactive with the public to develop and initiate more interactive, participatory management programs. The region is very involved in cooperative inseason salmon fisheries management with the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group and participation in weekly teleconferences conducted by Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association to obtain input from fishers on run size indicators and management strategies.
- AYK Region staff continues to be proactive working with the public to maintain, develop and improve commercial fisheries management to address the declining market value of salmon and herring resources. AYK staff has recently cooperated with the public to develop innovative ways of regulating, managing and prosecuting these fisheries as well as the Norton Sound king crab fishery to maximize the value of the fishery to fishers. Staff are working with stakeholders to develop a Chinook salmon management plan for Eastern Norton Sound and to develop regulatory options for potential changes to commercial fisheries management in the lower Yukon Area. A new freshwater commercial fishery for lamprey saw initial development in the Yukon River in 2003 and in 2005.
- AYK Region staff has initiated new fisheries resource assessment and monitoring programs to improve the responsiveness of management to industry and community needs for timely, accurate fisheries data. For example, the department conducted a new salmon sonar enumeration project in the Yukon River below the Canadian border, which indicates salmon passage is much larger than previously thought based on a mark and recapture project.
- AYK management and research staff participated in the Alaska Board of Fisheries process, Federal Subsistence Board/Regional Advisory Council process and U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Panel process. Reports and fisheries data analyses were prepared to address fisheries management and conservation issues and concerns associated with these resource management processes.
- Fisheries information was routinely provided to industry, resource users, federal agencies, regional organizations and the public at large through personal staff contacts, news releases, inseason teleconferencing with users and user groups, distribution of reports and electronic media.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 16 Fish and Game
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Contact Information
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AYK Region Fisheries Management Component Financial Summary

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Management Plan	FY2008 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	3,434.3	3,679.4	4,177.5
72000 Travel	178.1	187.6	187.6
73000 Services	623.9	456.6	432.2
74000 Commodities	251.1	341.1	241.1
75000 Capital Outlay	43.0	36.5	36.5
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	4,530.4	4,701.2	5,074.9
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	4,201.7	4,345.6	4,718.4
1036 Commercial Fishing Loan Fund	284.5	284.5	284.5
1109 Test Fisheries Receipts	44.2	71.1	72.0
Funding Totals	4,530.4	4,701.2	5,074.9

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2006 Actuals	FY2007 Manageme nt Plan	FY2008 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
Commercial Fishing Loan Fund	51100	284.5	284.5	284.5
Unrestricted Total		284.5	284.5	284.5
Restricted Revenues				
Test Fisheries Receipts	51064	44.2	71.1	72.0
Restricted Total		44.2	71.1	72.0
Total Estimated Revenues		328.7	355.6	356.5

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2007 Management Plan to FY2008 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2007 Management Plan	4,345.6	0.0	355.6	4,701.2
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Remove funding for fuel/utility cost increases received in the FY2007 budget	-20.5	0.0	0.0	-20.5
-Transfer General Fund authority from AYK Region to Headquarters for DOA RSAs	-124.4	0.0	0.0	-124.4
Proposed budget increases:				
-Increased Fuel/Utility Costs	20.5	0.0	0.0	20.5
-FY 08 Retirement Systems Rate Increases	497.2	0.0	0.9	498.1
FY2008 Governor	4,718.4	0.0	356.5	5,074.9

AYK Region Fisheries Management Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2007</u> <u>Management</u> <u>Plan</u>	<u>FY2008</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	36	34	Annual Salaries	2,374,632
Part-time	58	59	Premium Pay	69,635
Nonpermanent	0	0	Annual Benefits	1,886,683
			<i>Less 3.54% Vacancy Factor</i>	<i>(153,450)</i>
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	94	93	Total Personal Services	4,177,500

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Accounting Clerk II	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Assistant	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Clerk III	1	0	0	0	1
Analyst/Programmer III	2	0	0	0	2
Analyst/Programmer IV	1	0	0	0	1
Biometrician III	1	0	0	0	1
F&G Regional Spvr	1	0	0	0	1
F&W Technician I	0	0	0	1	1
F&W Technician II	1	3	0	33	37
F&W Technician III	1	0	0	6	7
F&W Technician V	0	0	0	1	1
Fish & Game Program Tech	0	1	0	2	3
Fishery Biologist I	2	1	0	11	14
Fishery Biologist II	4	2	0	3	9
Fishery Biologist III	2	3	0	3	8
Fishery Biologist IV	3	1	0	0	4
Publications Tech II	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	22	11	0	60	93